

REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the present amended claims is respectfully requested.

In paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action the Examiner has required restriction between Groups I (Claims 1-22, 29-33) and II (Claims 23-28, 34-37). Although applicant does not agree with the propriety of the restriction requirement, in an effort to speed prosecution of this application to allowance, Applicant elects to prosecute the invention set forth in Group I. Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled claims 23-28 and 34-37 without prejudice to their assertion in a timely filed divisional application. Applicant has also amended Claims 7 and 10 to correct minor typographical errors without changing the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner also required an election of species, namely an election of a polymer disclosed in claims 5-9, 14-18, 29-33. Although application does not necessarily agree with the propriety of the election requirement, in an effort to speed prosecution of this application to allowance, Applicant elects the species ethylcellulose (Claims 8 and 17) for prosecution on the merits.

Applicant notes the Examiner's reminder in paragraph 5 of the Office Action.

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Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any outstanding matters regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al B. Clement', with a stylized, cursive script.

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